

These minutes are published on the basis that such matters (if there be any) which the PCC has resolved shall remain confidential have not been included

Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 3rd March, 7.15pm in the Narthex

Present: James Cawdell (Chair), David Goodhew, Barbara Edwards, Gail Roberts, Tony Hutchings, Paul Bury, Chinedu Anioke, Fiona Houldsworth, Alistair Bolton, Ali Ward, Malcolm McGregor, Helen McGregor, Sue Bell, Mark Allan, Immy Burgess-Hale, Andrew Devereux, Lindsey Goodhew, Richard Peacock.

1. Worship

James Cawdell led the PCC in prayer.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Debs Smith.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 3rd February 2025

There were no amendments and the meeting was happy to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting of 3rd February 2025.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Vicar's Report

David reported that Bishop Barry's visit to the Deanery has been changed. There will be an open meeting on Thursday 5th June. Baptisms and Confirmation will take place on Sunday 18th May. David asked the PCC to encourage those who haven't been baptized to take this step.

7. Lent and Easter Plans

The Lent course, Dig Deeper, starts on Ash Wednesday, with a session in the morning and the evening. The donkey has been booked for Palm Sunday. At Easter there will be the normal schedule of services, with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, a service on Good Friday at 2pm and the usual services on Easter Sunday. On Easter Saturday there will be a quiet morning and a choral meditation in the evening, led by the choir.

8. Congregational Survey: Preliminary Findings

Immy circulated some preliminary findings from the congregational survey, based on 116 responses. These are attached to the minutes. A number of comments were highlighted in the discussion: the diversity of the congregation in age and ethnicity; the need for people to feel able to volunteer, and how to make everyone feel included and valued. David mentioned the responses to the question about the riots. Immy said there were a number of comments on the issues facing the national church, including safeguarding and same sex marriage. James thanked Immy and Oli for their work with the survey. Immy will come back to PCC with more analysis, including how the results compare to the electoral roll.

9. Safeguarding

David said that it had been appropriate to thank Ali Ward for her 21 years as Parish Safeguarding Officer at the morning services the previous day and introduce Stuart Gunn, who will take on the role alongside Fiona Fletcher. David suggested that Stuart or Fiona should be invited to the PCC every 3 months. They will continue to attend PCC if there is anything that needs to be brought to the PCC's attention and safeguarding will remain on the agenda at every meeting.

10. Prayer Meetings and Prayer

There are currently two prayer meetings, mainly for intercession: Saturday 9-10am online and Wednesday 8-8.30pm in church, with 6-10 attendees at each. There was a short discussion about widening participation and looking at different ways to encourage prayer. It was commented that there were not enough people on the

prayer ministry team to cover all services, that prayer in life groups was important and valued and that the prayer circle is active and perhaps could be better publicized. Are there things that other churches do, which we could try? The PCC will return to this at the next meeting.

11. Finance Report

This was circulated and is attached to the minutes. Andrew reported that the HSBC was reducing the interest rate on the account.

There was the start of a discussion on KMG, focusing on whether any giving to external organisations should only be from surplus and the implications for our current practice of giving 10% of the previous year's income as KMG.

12. Lottery Money

There was a discussion on whether St Barnabas should apply to grant bodies funded by the National Lottery. A wide range of views were expressed. Some felt that any funding from gambling should be opposed, due to the misery caused by problem gambling. Others suggested that the money is available and we would be able to use it for doing good things. Any money given in grants has come from somewhere, if not from the lottery, then from business, whose ethics we may not agree with. It was pointed out that the Borderlands grant recently received was funded by the Lottery via the Arts Council. There was a concern that we should not be seen to endorse the Lottery or be putting stumbling blocks in people's way. Gambling does not cease to be wrong because the proceeds are used for good causes. Jesus sanctifies money given to him. We need to come to a decision as a PCC at the next meeting.

13. Facilities Management Report

This was circulated and is attached to the minutes. Tony reported that the Reid Room boiler, which is 16 years old, needs repair. This is probably uneconomic, so it will need to be replaced, costing around £2500. Three quotes will be obtained and a decision taken at the next PCC meeting. PAT testing will take place on Thursday.

14. Buildings Task Group

This has met. It is hoped to give a presentation at the APCM on the buildings we have and what we need to take us forward.

15. Evangelism Task Group

This meets later in the month and hopes to bring an interim report to the next PCC.

16. Deanery Synod Report

Alistair reported that the Deanery Synod had met in February at the Church of the Ascension, Berwick Hills. There was a parish presentation by St Cuthbert's Ormesby and a presentation by Ann Self about dementia friendly churches and the dementia café. Middlesbrough Deanery has more than met its projected FWO. In the next 5 years, more money will need to be raised to cover ministry costs. The Diocesan Synod report was mostly concerned with finance and the General Synod report with safeguarding. Revd Bridget Woodall, vicar of North Ormesby, will be retiring in June.

17. AONB

The PCC approved the student weekend away in March.

The PCC was happy for Ali Ward's PTO as Reader to be renewed.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th April, 7.15pm

Chairman.....

Date.....